

REMARKS

Based on the amendments above, claims 1, 2, 4-40, 42-58 are pending. Claims 1, 28, 32, 47, 51, 52, 55, and 58 are the independent claims. Claims 47-58 are new.

Claims 28-40 are allowed.

The action indicates that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. We have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3 as previously pending. Therefore, we submit that claim 1 as currently pending is now in condition for allowance.

The action also indicates that claims 14, 18, 19, 22, and 42 (as pending prior to this amendment) would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. We have added new independent claims 47, 51, 52, 55, and 58, which rewrite claims 14, 18, 19, 22, and 42 (as pending prior to this amendment) in independent form, respectively. Therefore, we submit that independent claims 47, 51, 52, 55, and 58 are now in condition for allowance.

The only claims that remain are dependent claims, which are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim from which they respectively depend. Therefore we submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

All of the remaining claims depend from one of the independent claims, which as described above, are indicated as being allowable.

We note that the Action specifically mentions reasons for allowance. However, the reasons that are described are only applicable to independent claim 28. We do not concede that the same reasons are necessarily applicable to the other claims that are indicated as being allowable.

Finally, we note that the Examiner has not initialed the Form PTO-1449 for each of the Information Disclosure Statements filed March 21, 2002, October 10, 2002, and June 5, 2003. For the Examiner's convenience we enclose copies of those Form PTO-1449s, and we ask the Examiner to initial them and return the initialed copies to us with his next communication.

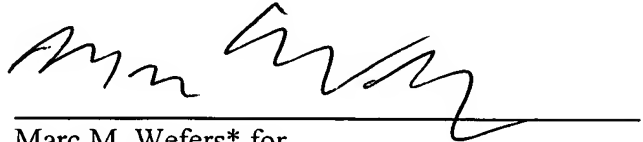
Applicant : Clifford C. Hoyt et al.
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Attorney's Docket No.: 12259-009001

Enclosed is a \$262.00 check for excess claim fees. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 12259-009001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/15/04



Marc M. Wefers* for
Frank R. Occhiuti
Reg. No. 35,306

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

***See attached document certifying that Marc M. Wefers has limited recognition to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office under 37 C.F.R. § 10.9(b).**